

## Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3842

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

S E C R E T LUANDA 0967

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: NAVY COMMANDER REVIEWS SITUATION

1. I TALKED ON JULY 24 WITH ADMIRAL LEONEL CARDOSO, COMMANDER OF THE PORTUGUESE NAVY IN ANGOLA, WHO JUST RECEIVED HIS THIRD STAR. CARDOSO SAID THAT IN LIGHT OF THE REPORTS HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING HE BELIEVES THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS AS CONCEIVED BY THE PORTUGUESE TO BE OVER. FNLA HAS TAKEN THE NORTH AND IS ACTING THERE AS SOVEREIGN. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE REPORTED THAT THE PORTUGUESE HAVE DECIDED TO PULL THEIR TROOPS OUT OF CARMONA IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS TO REGROUP GRADUALLY IN LUANDA AND LOBITO AND ALSO BECAUSE THERE IS LITTLE SENSE IN KEEPING PORTUGUESE TROOPS AROUND AS PART OF THE INTEGRATED FORCES WHEN ONLY FNLA IS ON THE SCENE. ON JULY 23, IN CARMONA, DWNIEL CHIPENDA TOLD THE PORTUGUESE ARMY COMMANDER THAT WHEN THE PORTUGUESE TROOPS PULL OUT THEY MUST LEAVE THEIR WEAPONS AND MATERIEL BEHIND. THE PORTUGUESE ARE IN NO SHAPE TO FIGHT DEVELOPMENTS; LISBON IS TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH ITS OWN PROBLEMS TO TAKE

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EFFECTIVE ACTION AND, BESIDES, THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY

OVERTHREW THE OLD REGIME TO GET OUT OF THE BUSINESS OF FIGHTING IN AFRICA. THE REINFORCEMENTS SENT FROMHPORTUGAL TO HELP OUT IN THE CURRENT CRISIS ARE TOO FEW, HE SAID, ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT MOBUTU CAN SEND ARMOR AND TROOPS ACROSS THE BORDER AT WILL TO HELP THE FNLA.

2. A PORTUGUESE ARMY PATROL TRAVELLED TO BARRA DO DONDE ON JULY 23 AND FOUND THE MPLA IN CONTROL. CARDOSO SAID THE TOWN HAS CHANGED HANDS THREE OR FOUR TIMES IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. CAXITO IS STILL UNDER THE CONTROL OF MPLA. CARDOSO THOUGHT THAT HOLDEN ROBERTO MIGHT BE IN AMBRIZ. INTELLIGENCE IS HARD TO COME BY, MAINLY BECAUSE THE LIBERATION GROUPS ARE DISORGANIZED AND LACKING COMMUNICATIONS. THEY FIGHT SMALL SCALE, UNCOORDINATED BATTLES AND THE ONLY MEANS TO ESTABLISH WHAT IS GOING ON IS TO GET EYEWITNESS REPORTS WHICH MAY THEMSELVES BE OUT OF DATE BY THE TIME THE INFORMATION IS PASSED.

3. THE MPLA HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DISLODGE 60 FNLA TROOPS IN THE GARRIYON AT SANTO ANTONIO DA CQCA (CAZZNGA). CARDOSO SAID THAT MPLA IS FIRING IN ANGER AT THE SAN PEDRO DA BARRA FORT. ANY PRISONERS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THERE ARE PROBABLY LONG SINCE DEAD, AS THE FNLA IS NOT ABOUT TO SHARE SHORT RATIONS WITH THE ENEMY.

4. ACCORDING TO CARDOSO, THE PORTUGUESE WILL ESTABLISH THE DEFENSES FOR LUANDA IN CACUACO. I GATHER FROM WHAT HE SAID THAT THE PORTUGUESE WILL DEPLOY BEFORE THE TOWN AT THE POINT WHERE HIGH GROUND SLOPES DOWN TO A SMALL INLET WHERE SALT WORKS ARE LOCATED.

5. I ASKED HIM ABOUT THE NEW ANGOLAN NAVY. HE SAID THE 200 RECRUITS ARE STILL IN TRAINING AND HE IS INSISTING UPON CONTINUING WITH THE PROJECT, NOT BECAUSE HE HAS ANY HOPE, BUT BECAUSE HE IS STUBBORN. SUPRISINGLY, THE ONLY ONE OF THE THREE LIBERATION GROUP OFFICERS WITH ANY SENSE OR DEDICATION IS THE FNLA REPRESENTATIVE. HE IS OLDER, INTELLIGENT, SENSIBLE AND CALM. THE MPLA NOMINEE, A YOUNG MAN WHO RECEIVED SOME KIND OF TRAINING IN THE SOVIET UNION PUNCTUATES ALL HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH RAMBLING DISCOURSES ON  
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POLITICAL DOCTRINE. THE UNITA COMMANDER IS A YOUNG PLAYBOY. CARDOSO SWID HE HAS ASKED UNITA AND MPLA TO PROVIDE HIM WITH REPLACEMENTS FOR THE TWO.  
KILLORAN

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